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Skate date

The Minden Skating Club celebrated 75 years in style this past weekend, with professional skaters Fiona Bombardier and Ben Mimar taking to the ice. For more photos, see inside. /TIM YANO staff photographer

AH cottagers demand council reimburse costs

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

A pair of Algonquin Highlands cottage owners have asked to be reimbursed costs incurred when their vehicles were separately recently towed.

A vehicle owned by Kevin Scriver and another owned by Paul Coffey were removed from Big Hawk Lake Road in the days around Family Day in February.

Scriver said he parked his vehicle during a cottage visit just as he has every February on that weekend for 30 years. He told Algonquin Highlands council when it met March 20 that he dug his truck and trailer from snow on the Monday morning and attached the trailer to a different vehicle.

Then he darted off on a snowmobile trip.

When he returned Friday, he discovered his truck had been towed and he would need to shell out $636 to have it returned.

"I do not follow social media and was away," he said. "So I could not move my vehicle as requested."

Another vehicle parked on Big Hawk Lake Road was plowed around without being towed by the township, he said.

"I do not understand why two vehicles were towed at a high cost and one was plowed around," Scriver said. "This seems like a very unfair practice. There is no angle parking or designated parking area in the winter. This is a municipal road and there are no No Parking signs or Snow Removal signs."

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux said the towing bill is high and she can empathize with the predicament.

"I doesn't mean we can do anything about that charge," Dailloux said.

Scriver said the road is routinely used by cottagers and tourists for parking.

He suggested the township could have moved the towed vehicles farther up the road as it was not an emergency tow situation. Or similarly plowed around the towed vehicles.

Many municipalities have contracts with towing companies when doing snow removal for such situations, he said.

"It is not fair practice to plow around one vehicle and tow my vehicle," Scriver said. "I believe the township acted irresponsibly and I should be compensated for my expenses, as I believe I was unfairly towed.

"We should be able to go to the cottage for holidays without the fear of being towed."

Mayor Liz Danielsen said it is well known that many people park along that road at various times of the year.

"However, the Highway Traffic Act does allow for vehicles to be towed if they're impeding snow removal and impeding plowing," she said. "It's my understanding that the one vehicle that remained in place was not impeding the ability to plow the road."

The municipality is working on a long-term parking plan for the area, because parking is problematic in many ways, she said.

Danielsen said the township doesn't tow vehicles. Rather, that work is contracted out to a private company.

"We don't have the means of towing vehicles ourselves," said Adam Thorn, public works manager.

Greg Moore, the township's chief building and bylaw official, said the vehicle that wasn't towed wasn't parked on the road's travelled portion. Both vehicles that were

see MAYOR page 2

The Minden Health Hub; a community within a community

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Rural healthcare has been top of mind for many in recent years. Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) is cognizant of this priority, and wants to address the needs in the community.

That's why they've come up with a solution that they hope will fill in the gaps for individuals: the Minden Health Hub.

"It's so much more than just a clinic," said Jennifer Burns West, the Vice President of Clinical and Community Programs, and the Chief Nursing Executive. "It's a whole hub for any healthcare needs."

Housed in the former Minden ER site, the Health Hub hopes to be a one-stop shop for ongoing medical needs that may arise. This includes community support services, a women's health clinic, adult day programs, internal medicine support, Life Labs, physiotherapy, and mental health services, to name a few. The list is extensive, and continues to adapt and change as the needs arise.

Elaine Fockler, the Manager of Community Programs from HHHS, made a nod to the lack of transportation in the region as a big selling feature for the Hub. "It's such a huge issue in our county," she said. "So by putting these programs together, anyone can access many services, all in one place."

And the benefits continue for adding layers to the care. Amanda Rowden, Client Service Manager and liaison for a number of community programs, believes in the rich rewards that come from like-minded individuals joining forces. "This approach not only improves convenience for the community but also creates valuable opportunities for cross-program collaboration and integration," she said. "By working closely together under one roof, we're able to better support individuals and families through more coordinated and holistic services."

While it was noted that the lack of parking at the site is "the elephant in the room," staff confirmed that there are plans underway for the spring and summer seasons to accommodate additional parking locations at the Hub.

The presence of the Hub and its continually growing services will not impact the Minden Urgent Care Clinic, which is run by the Kawartha North Family Health Team, and will stay on-site.

"It's really about connecting all the dots," said Lauren Ernst, the Communications and Employee Experience Lead for HHHS. "It's about recognizing services that are needed, but may not be available."

"We want to make it with as few barriers as possible," said Fockler, noting that the many mental health services available; such as counselling, early psychosis, and housing programs, are available free of charge, with a very short and manageable waitlist.

HHHS is adamant about the importance of community, so it's only fitting that they have developed a model that's reflective of the many layers and needs that may arise from their own community. "Bringing staff together in one location fosters stronger team building, collaboration, and engagement, ultimately enhancing the quality of service we provide to the community," said Rowden.

Many hands and minds working together who bring a wealth of experiences, perspectives, and priorities together, but with one goal in mind: improvising the overall healthcare of the community.

Ernst noted that by creating a facility such as the Minden Health Hub, it will also put Haliburton County on the map for physicians seeking permanent placements. "Once medical professionals know these services are up here, I believe it will help us with recruitment," she said.

For more information on the Minden Health Hub and the wide variety of services available, visit www.hhhs.ca.

Mayor avoids setting compensation precedent

from page 1

removed were the only two vehicles on the travelled portion.

If township staff had the capability to relocate a vehicle to a different piece of the thoroughfare, Moore said there's an obligation to ensure the vehicle will be safe. And that could pose questions regarding insurance.

"We certainly don't want to tow if we don't have to," Thorn said. "We certainly don't look for it."

But the equipment that clears Big Hawk Lake Road has a plow and a wing blade. The two towed vehicles prevented the use of the wing so a second vehicle had to be used to clear the road, Thorn said.

"That would be our go-to for what would instigate a conversation with the bylaw to have vehicles moved," he said.

Coffey visited his cottage with his grandchildren and parked his vehicle a little down the road from the marina on Big Hawk Lake.

"This has been the acceptable practice since well before I was born," he wrote council in a letter. "And I am now 71 years old."

There is no municipal parking lot nearby and the cottage road turns into a snowmobile trail in the winter, he said.

"The only parking lot available is for tourists of the log chute," Coffey said. "(It is) not to be used by cottagers and overnight parking is not allowed."

When he, too, returned from a snowmobile trip with friends, he also found his vehicle was towed to accommodate snow removal. And that was the first time his car had been towed in his life, he said.

"And to further add to my shock, I looked down the road to find another car covered in snow, which the plow had gone around rather than towing it," Coffey wrote. "My understanding is there were notices put on vehicles on Feb. 19 regarding snow removal to take place on Feb. 20. After consulting your website, this timeline was confirmed.

"The lack of notice in this situation is completely unacceptable. We are lake access, having been on a snowmobile trip or not. I would not have seen this notice on my vehicle and I do not follow social media."

He said his bill started with a $250 emergency charge was added to the $386 bill for the overall $636 towing fee. And that's unacceptable.

"This was not an emergency," he said.

Scriver echoed that sentiment.

"The whole road is used for parking," Scriver said. "You cannot say that one vehicle, it's okay to park on the road, and the other isn't. The whole road is used for parking and it's not just one spot."

Scriver said the charges can't be justified.

"The charges were not ours," Danielsen said. "They were to tow company's."

"On the bill it said authorized by the Township of Algonquin (Highlands)," Scriver said. "You were the ones that had it towed."

"Because your vehicle was impeding our ability to access the road," Danielsen said. "The other vehicles were not."

"It was parking in the road in the same way," Scriver said and asked how one vehicle can be plowed around but the others could not.

He said his situation was mishandled and council has an opportunity to fix it.

"Because that's not how you deal with your cottagers and the people that are coming to your area to visit," Scriver said. "I'm a reasonable person, but I just don't think that this was done properly."

"I have to beg to differ with you, sir, because we don't have another means to deal with it," Danielsen said. "This was a significant snowfall."

Reimbursement for both Scriver's and Coffey's requests was denied.

"I can't see how we can set a precedent," Danielsen said.

Land Trust recognized on national scale

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is among the first six across Canada to be achieve Conservation Excellence Certification.

The Haliburton group is one of three in Ontario.

The Centre for Land Conservation (CLC) named the local organization to the certification along with the Kawartha Land Trust, Ontario Farmland Trust, and the Couchiching Conservancy in Ontario.

And the designation may aid in raising funds to help continue the land trust's work.

Recent polling shows that accreditation programs like the Conservation Excellence Certification strongly influence donor confidence. As much as 90 per cent of Canadian donors reported increased confidence in third-party certified organizations.

Rounding out the field of six trusts are the Nature Trust of New Brunswick and the Southern Interior Land Trust Society in British Columbia.

The certification marks a significant milestone in the evolution of Canada's land conservation sector, according to the CLC. The six certified organizations represent conservation leadership from coast to coast.

"This certification represents a watershed moment for land conservation in Canada." said Lara Ellis, the CLC executive director.

"These six organizations have demonstrated exceptional commitment to conservation excellence. Their certification signals to donors, partners, and communities that they operate at the highest levels of professional practice and conservation impact."

Protected natural areas are essential to the quality of life of Canadians, providing wildlife habitat and places for recreation, connecting people with nature in their communities, conserving vital biodiversity, and serving as natural carbon sinks that help mitigate climate change impacts.

Organizations are evaluated on conservation outcomes, governance, sustainability practices, strategic planning, and financial management. Certification is valid for four years, with the option to renew.

More than 140 regional and community land trusts operate across Canada. They are non-profit charitable organizations focused on conserving private property through donation, acquisition and conservation agreements.

More than 112,000 hectares of Canada's terrestrial land mass has been protected by the trusts.

The Conservation Excellence Certification Program, supported by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), philanthropic foundations, and individual donors, promotes conservation excellence through third-party evaluation of conservation impact, governance, and organizational sustainability against nationally adopted standards and practices.

Certified organizations are authorized to use the Conservation Excellence Certification Trustmark and will be listed in a public registry on the CLC website.

Additional land trusts are currently undergoing assessment and the program aims to enroll up to 40 land trusts across Canada by March 2026.

"Ontario Farmland Trust is honoured to receive Conservation Excellence Certification, reaffirming our commitment to protecting Ontario's agricultural and natural landscapes for future generations," said Martin Straathof, executive director at Ontario Farmland Trust.

"We are proud to be recognized for our dedication to the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices and to join this inaugural cohort of certified land trusts. We look forward to advancing land stewardship alongside the Centre for Land Conservation and fellow members of the land trust community."

A patchwork puzzle; how knitting has tied a community together

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Stories.

That's what Mary Trepanier gets from knitting.

Stories of grief, stories of pain, stories of warmth.

When she started the Knitting for Warmth program 23 years ago, she thought it would be a small side-program through her church, maybe with a few meetings a year to assemble blankets for the community.

But it quickly became a patchwork of personalities; a deep dive into the importance of warmth, in both a physical and metaphorical sense.

The idea stemmed from Trepanier's niece, who, at the age of ten years old, came for a visit, and excitedly showed Trepanier the knitted square she had made at school. Her teacher had started a knitting club, and during recesses, she showed the children how to simply make a pastel-coloured square, which in the end was knitted together to form a blanket for a baby.

Many small pieces, all fitting together to create a big picture.

"I thought, 'hey, that's a pretty good idea,'" recalled Trepanier, who introduced the concept to her church in Minden, the Highlands Hills United Church. "I thought we could meet a couple times of year, but it very quickly grew."

The premise is the same as the one Trepanier's niece was putting into practice: many small pieces, all fitting together to create a big picture.

Trepanier put a call out to the community; a need for squares. Nothing fancy, just simple eight inch by eight inch shapes in any colour, that can be patched together as a blanket for someone in need. "I thought the blankets would be the important part of the project," said Trepanier. "And don't get me wrong, they are so important, but it turns out that knitting together is the important part."

Word spread around town for the need for squares. It was quickly noted that this was a perfect activity for individuals in long term care homes. "There's a rhythm to knitting that calms you down," said Trepanier, noting that she's had stories from people whose parents are navigating dementia and Alzheimer's, but the routine of knitting squares has offered a stability to their quality of life. "There's so many people out there doing something for someone else, and that pushes them," she said.

A sample of one of the blankets the Knitting for Warmth volunteers assembled, using a series of eight by eight inch patches. /photo submitted

Trepanier continued to garner interest from folks donating squares for the blanket project, suddenly expanding beyond the boundaries of the Haliburton Highlands. "We had cottagers who became interested. They would knit all summer, then at the end of the summer, drop off a bag of squares on my porch." They would then take the concept back to their own communities, and they jumped on the square train as well. There is one long term care home, St. Timothy's, who sends in 800 squares every year, with 26 residents knitting regularly for the project.

In 23 years, Trepanier and her group of dedicated volunteers have completed 3000 blankets, which signifies the usage of 99,000 squares put together. The volunteers meet every Tuesday at the United Church, and sew the squares together. "I'm so grateful for the knitters and crocheters who send us the squares," she said. "They're the real heroes."

> "I'm so grateful for the knitters and crocheters who send us the squares. They're the real heroes."
>
> — MARY TREPANIER

And they truly are heroes, in many peoples stories. The finished blankets are donated to the Minden Community Food Centre, Children's Aid, SIRCH, Point in Time, Ronald McDonald House, Haliburton Highlands Health Services, local fire departments, Hyland Crest, Extendicare, YWCA Women's Shelter, A Place Called Home, and Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre to name a few.

And from the blankets, come the stories. "There was one girl who flew from Australia to Canada for an eye surgery at Sick Kids," recalled Trepanier. "While the surgery wasn't successful, when she left, she asked if she could bring her blanket with her. The bright colours allowed her to see it, and that was important to her."

In a time where the cost of heating presents very real challenges, Trepanier noted the need has changed for community members. Blankets are becoming a sought-after prize, and the volunteers have begun to change the shapes and sizes of blankets to accommodate the need.

A blanket offers physical comfort, but it also represents the feeling of warmth, a hug, a sense of belonging. It's so much more than just a blanket. It can be a home.

And that's what it's all about for Trepanier. The stories that go into the blankets, and the stories that come out of them. Many small pieces, all fitting together to create a big picture. "You just hear one story, and it's all worthwhile," said Trepanier.

The Knitting for Warmth volunteers gathered on March 25 to celebrate their 3000th blanket. They meet every Tuesday at the Highland Hills United Church on Newcastle Street in Minden from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. All are welcome to join the sewing of the squares together, but if you are interested in making your own squares, Trepanier would be happy to accept any as well, or donations of yarn that is not being used. Trepanier can be reached at 705-286-5173.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

March 27 – Regular Council Meeting
April 10 – Regular Council Meeting
April 24 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• *We're Still Talking*, an exhibit of fibre works by local artists Sandi Luck, Nadine Papp and Wendy Wood will be on display until May 10 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.

• *We Were Taught Differently (Bakaan nake'ii ngii-izhigakinoo'amaagoomin)* an exhibit created by The MUSE (Kenora, Ontario) will be on display from April 1 to June 28 in the Welch Room. The exhibit examines the Indian residential school experience, particularly in the two schools that were in Kenora – Cecilia Jeffrey and St. Mary's.

• A special screening of *Cold Journey* (1975) on April 3 at 1:00pm. Directed by Martin Defalco, this is a poignant drama about Indigenous youth in 1970's Canada. The documentary is provided courtesy of the National Film Board, in partnership with the HCPL – Minden Branch.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

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The team from Boshkung Brewing set up at Minden's Archie Stouffer School on March 21 to provide a hot breakfast for the elementary school students. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Boshkung spearheads ASES breakfast program

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

Mathew Renda, co-owner of Boshkung Brewing is all too familiar with the need to access breakfast programs. Growing up, he utilized the breakfast program at his school in Pickering to get him through the day.

After one of his staff members told him that Archie Stouffer Elementary School (ASES) lacked a breakfast program, Renda decided to take action.

The process to facilitate the breakfast program began in late February, after Renda reached out to principal Mike Gervais.

"These kids need a good meal in the morning," said Renda.

On Friday March 21, Renda and his wife Deborah Banks, staff member Courtney Ryckman and her son Deagan served breakfast to around 50 kids at the Minden elementary school. Breakfast included: scrambled eggs, bacon, yogurt, and fruit.

"It's just to put food in their bellies," said Renda.

Renda says that the food program is one way for him to pay it forward to the community. Owing to the success of the community to local residents, Renda says that supporting the community through food programs like the Food Centre and the kid's breakfast program is dearly needed.

Renda says that the Minden Community Food Centre is seeing an unstopping increase in demand. While the community of Minden is both resilient and tough, in trying times, it does not hurt to lend a helping hand.

"They might work for me in the future," said Renda with a laugh.

While the end of the school year is fast approaching, Renda hopes to continue the program next year and increase their capabilities of feeding more students.

Renda's vision for Boshkung Brewery is to become a focal point in the community; a welcoming gathering space for people to come together, catch up with old friends, and make new ones.

For a long time, Renda has loved all aspects of brewing. With a background in design and sales, he felt that beer and brewing always captured his interest, and even poured his creative endeavours writing on the sudsy stuff.

Running Boshkung Brewing involves multiple industries to be successful including sales, manufacturing, logistics, design, and chemistry, says Renda.

"A lot of people consider wine the best pairing for foods," said Renda. "There are thousands of malts and hops." With a variety of different ingredients to craft flavour profiles, the options are nearly endless.

There is a fine art to the craft of brewing. With beers ranging from lagers, to IPAs, to hefeweizen, and sours, every beer has a different brewing process.

Boshkung Brewing's Wildwood Sour, for example, uses 220 pounds of fresh blueberries and pomegranates during the brewing process. While traditionally sour beers take over three days with a special brewing process involving inoculation with lactobacillus bacteria and a drop in pH, a new yeast is available that cuts the brewing time down to one day.

Another beer that Boshkung prepares has been aging in a whiskey barrel since December of 2022.

One of Renda's biggest heroes in the brewing industry is Jeff Talmey from Town Brewery in Whitby. With a wide selection of beers and a reputation for fostering a community atmosphere, Renda looks at Talmey's business model for inspiration.

> "These kids need a good meal in the morning"
>
> — MATHEW RENDA, BOSHKUNG BREWING

Renda says that diversifying Boshkung Brewing with food options has allowed more people to come to the brewery and stay longer. With food as an additional source of income, it is easier to stay in business with declining beer sales.

Nationally, beer and alcohol sales have been on a continuous decline.

Boshkung Brewing has a single location in Minden, but Renda has said that they have aspirations to open an additional location towards the Durham region, with Bowmanville or Courtice being the strongest contenders. Renda says that the additional location would bring the experience of cottage country closer to the bigger cities, leading to further tourism opportunities in the Haliburton Highlands. Renda has no plans to move Boshkung Brewing from Minden.

All of Boshkung's beer labels are designed entirely by Renda himself. With eye-catching labels and distinct colors, Renda makes every label unique and whimsical. While he keeps designing duties for himself, he foresees teaching a staff member of the design process once the business expands.

Currently, Boshkung Brewing is in their shoulder season, but Renda says that this March Break saw more sales than last year's. Recently, their St. Patrick's Day event was highly successful, with around 70 people showing up to enjoy the festivities on their patio and inside their taproom. Renda says that the beautiful, warm weather was a huge factor in getting people out for the occasion.

In retaliation to the U.S. tariffs, American spirits have been pulled from their bar.

"It is important," said Renda. "We have no American spirits here. All of our well is Canadian made. We, as a company, try to keep as much Canadian as we can."

Renda says that he hopes the imposed tariffs will encourage more manufacturing plants to open in Canada.

"Cans are getting hit the hardest, with a 25 per cent tariff," said Renda. The tariff is said to increase to 50 percent in April.

Other breweries are capable of buying cans from other suppliers from China by the truckload. That is not economically feasible for a microbrewery like Boshkung.

Renda says that he is seeing increases in all aspects of the brewing process every day. The majority of hops are not grown in Canada and are seeing increased costs. Romaine lettuce, sourced from California, is something that is being hit disproportionately hard by the tariffs and is likely going to force Renda to make changes to the menu.

"It's tough," said Renda. "The grain we use is all Canadian. I am trying to hold back increasing prices for as long as I can."

With the national push to purchase Canadian-owned products, Renda says that he has seen an uptick in LCBO and Beer Store sales, noting brands with Canadian identities such as Molson and Tim Hortons are American owned.

"The community is so giving and supportive of us and we feel it," said Renda.

Highlands Corridor residents concerned about future

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Over 200 individuals came out Sunday afternoon to the Haliburton Legion to partake in an open house hosted by Citizens for Crown Land Protection (CCLP).

The organization was formed in light of a dispute that was brought forward in February of this past year.

At the time, a private local Facebook user, Amy Toye, shared a post that has since gone viral, surrounding questions aimed at the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT).

The concern was rooted in the access to Crown land from the Land Trust along the Highlands Corridor.

The Corridor, which is 100,000 hectares of unceded Crown land, municipal land, and private land connecting three provincial parks across Haliburton County, is designated as significant by the HHLT due to its rich wetlands, forests, and species at risk that reside within the extensive property.

"The Highlands Corridor offers a nature-based solution to building climate change resilience, protecting lands and waters, and maintaining biodiversity," says the Land Trust website.

But the CCLP believes there may be ulterior motives to the push for land conservation. John Davidson, a retired staff member of the Ministry of Natural Resources, has identified what he believes to be discrepancies between what the HHLT is presenting, and the reality of the situation. The crux of the issue: a lack of transparent communications between HHLT and community stakeholders and property owners. "We do believe the volunteers (of the HHLT) mean well, but we also believe there is information left out," he said.

To kick off the meeting, Davidson asked the crowd how many were landowners across the Highlands Corridor section, and the majority of hands shot into the air. He called the Land Trust's efforts in sharing information around the project to be "confusing, contradictory, and incomplete."

"Why have so many people been left out of the conversation?" he asked. He accused the HHLT of using "scientific buzz phrases" to further their own agenda at conservation.

At the meeting, many were concerned about what they could continue to do on their own land, including agriculture, hunting, fishing, ATVing, snowmobiling, and land management. The Land Trust continues to message that they will not touch private property, noting that the only one who can touch that is the government.

Partial blame for the support of identifying the Highlands Corridor as a designated conservation area was flipped to county council, who had several members in attendance at the meeting. Godfrey Tyler, a concerned citizen of the county, piped up and questioned council members. "We don't have any communications anymore," he said. "County council really needs to think about how they're talking with their constituents."

After the initial presentation by Davidson, the organization opened the floor to attendees. Many were concerned about losing access to the land they own, and the majority voiced concerns about a lack of transparency and communications.

The CCLP will be taking a delegation to county council on Wednesday March 26. The *Times* will provide coverage of the public meeting in the next edition.

John Davidson, a founding member of the Concerned Citizens for Crown Land, speaks to a full room of attendees during their open house on March 23 at the Haliburton Legion. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

The CCLP noted that the land is managed by the provincial government, so support from local governments would merely endorse their efforts moving forward.

"We want full transparency and input from everybody," said Davidson. "We'll make sure they know what we feel."

Federal election officially called

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Here we go again. On March 23, incumbent Prime Minister Mark Carney officially called a federal election. It is clear that the opposing parties were prepared for the announcement; with Conservative MP Jamie Schmale's signs adorning the sides of the road within minutes of the election called.

The date for the election is April 28, and members of parliament are ready for the battle ahead.

Currently, there are four parties lined up for the federal stage: Liberals, Conservatives, New Democratic Party, and the Bloc Québécois.

Liberal Mark Carney has proven himself efficient in the short weeks he has been in the big seat. Carney was born in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, which makes him the first Prime Minister from the North. He went to Harvard University, and then Oxford with specializations in economics. He won the popular vote by 85 per cent to succeed former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

He is up against Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, New Democratic Party leader Jagmeet Singh, and Bloc Québécois leader Yves-François Blanchet.

The *Times* will continue to report on developments of this election as they become available.

In Other Words

Columns and Letters to the Editor

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Blankets

MANY SMALL pieces, all coming together to make something bigger.

I was inspired by Minden's Mary Trepanier this week.

She and her group of dedicated volunteers have diligently worked for the past 23 years on the Knitting for Warmth project; an initiative to sew squares together in a blanket shape, to hand out to anyone who may need it.

Mary was smart when she started this project. She thought ahead. She knew that many hands make light work. Literally.

Anyone with an interest in textiles could likely knit, crochet, or patch a square. That's it. A simple eight by eight shape; a monotonous task, but one that allows the mind to untangle its many busy thoughts.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Sometimes that's exactly what we need at the end of a long day; an opportunity to unwind.

And so she started receiving squares from all over; cottagers who wanted to keep their hands busy, locals who were aging but seeking ways to keep their minds nimble, beginners who were green to the craft but had a desire to learn.

Everyone and anyone who cared about others.

And sometimes it feels like those individuals are few and far between these days.

Together, these many squares were woven together; a patchwork of personalities and a diorama of differences, but all with the same goal: to provide warmth.

As Mary and I spoke on the phone, it was drizzling outside. I myself had an old quilt wrapped around my feet in an effort to tame the chill that wound itself through my bones.

And Mary told me stories. About people who are displaced because of violence or abuse, but they bring their blanket place to place. About kids undergoing surgeries, and clinging to their blankets for safety and security. About individuals who spend summers living in the woods in an effort to save enough money for rent over the winter months, and rely on those blankets as home.

A blanket can be so much more than a series of pieces patched together.

And when these blankets are made from a place of love, a place of wanting to make the world a better place, I firmly believe that they carry that energy forward.

Perhaps that's why so many kids carry their blankies with them from infancy. It's not just a scrappy piece of material, it represents warmth, represents care, represents love.

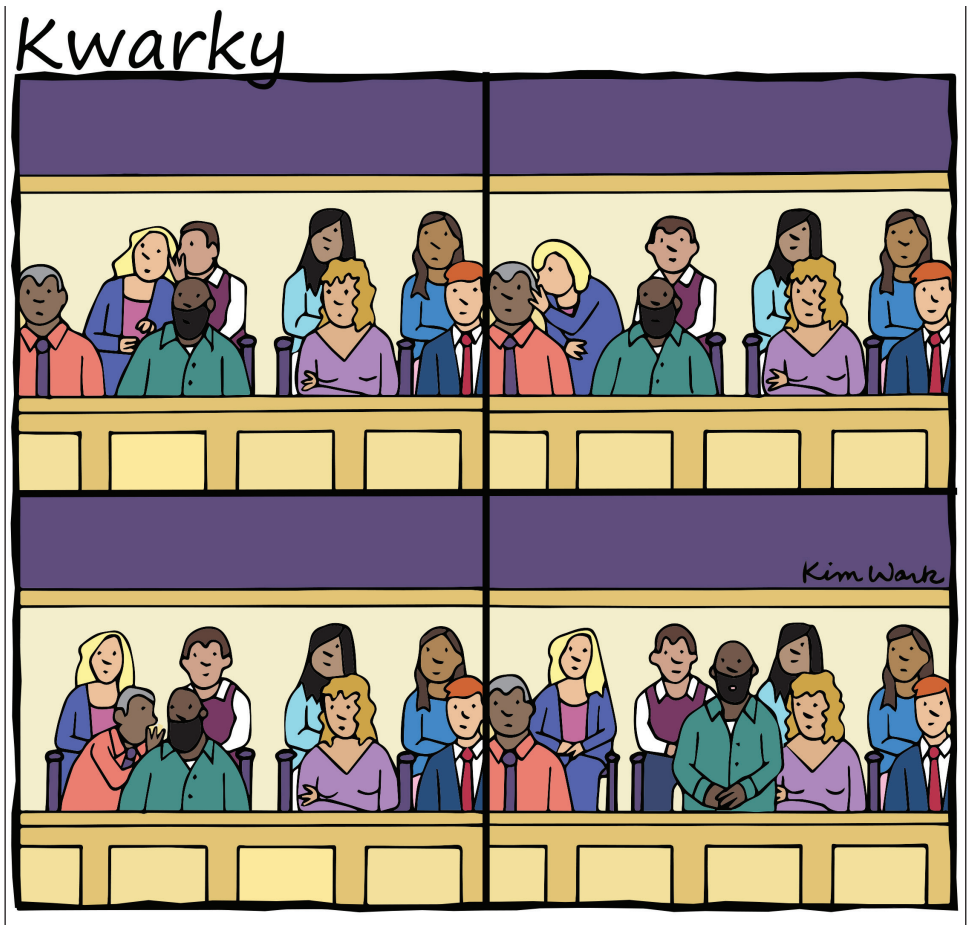
Individually, those squares can only do so much. A dishrag, at best. But together, they become something bigger, something better, and something so much more real.

A shout-out to the community members who have made 99,000 squares, and 3000 blankets for those in need. That is no small feat, and I can only imagine the many corners of the world those blankets have seen.

It's a humbling thought; many small pieces all coming together to make something bigger.

As we navigate the uncertainty of our political climate, let us remember that individually we are just one small square.

But together, we have the ability to represent warmth, represent care, and represent love.



"We, the jury, fine the deposit not wilty."

It takes a village

If I were a U.S. leader, and I was actually planning to invade Canada, I would be very nervous.

Oh sure, they might be able to overrun our country with their vast military machine. They might even be capable of bringing us to our knees economically. There's no doubt they would have initial successes.

But eventually, they would have to deal with our ice hut owners.

Between you and me, I believe this is why Napoleon and Hitler failed in their winter campaigns against Russia.

Imagine, if you will, a platoon of elite American troops approaching a typical ice fishing village doing a hut-to-hut search at the end of the ice fishing season.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

There, they are met by grizzled veteran anglers who have survived most of a Canadian winter eating nothing but pepperettes and bad coffee. These are hardened men and women – the likes of which U.S. forces have never seen before.

Here's what I imagine the initial American after-action report would sound like.

"Well Lieutenant," the Colonel might say, "What did you learn on your patrol of that village?"

"Apparently, the lakers are biting white tube jigs tipped with minnow heads, sir. But I'm not even sure if that's true …"

"I couldn't care less about that. What about the Canadian insurgent forces?"

"Evidently, they are catching some real beauties sir."

"I don't care what they are catching! I'm asking about their locations! Where are they at?" the perturbed Colonel would clarify.

"Rumour has it they are at a really good brook trout lake."

"What?" the Colonel would ask.

"Natural strain of fish too… with an excellent year-class being regularly caught…"

"Never mind all that. What's its name?" He'd say while banging his fist on his desk.

"Sir, the ice anglers call it No-Telly Lake. But we can't find it on our maps …"

"Did you ask them where it is?"

"Sir, it's a secret brook trout lake," the Lieutenant replies. "No one in that ice fishing village is going to cough that up!"

"Have you tried enhanced interrogation?" he says grimly.

"Maybe you didn't hear me sir. It's a secret brook trout lake. They're Canadian anglers. They're going to take that secret with them to the grave…"

"I think it's time for a little waterboarding," the Colonel says.

"With all due respect sir, they spend the entire winter ice fishing. Waterboarding is going to feel like a hot shower …"

"Then raze the entire village. Go in their early tomorrow morning. I don't want to see one ice hut left standing on the lake!"

"Yes sir…"

The next day, in the after-action report:

"What the hell happened?" The Colonel asks.

"It was awful sir," a visibly shaken Lieutenant would say.

"I can't understand it. How is it possible that your platoon had to medevac 28 men with various types of back injuries?" the Colonel would ask.

"Respectfully sir, have you ever tried to move ten ice huts back to shore?"

"No," he'd answer.

"Well, war is hell sir ..."

"How many casualties did the Canadians take?"

"Not a one sir," he replies. "But they did thank us for getting their huts off the lake."

"They beat us this time, but we will regroup," the Colonel announces. "We will look for that No-Telly Lake in the spring."

"When do we start that campaign sir?"

"Soon" the Colonel says. "One ice angler let slip that brook trout bite best when the black flies are fiercest…"

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

The Power of One

AT A RECENT presentation of the King Charles III Coronation medal to a Habitat for Humanity board colleague in Lakefield, (and fellow recipient Harry Pearson, father to our local painter of renown, Rose Pearson) their MP spoke about the Power of One to make change in the community, as both recipients had done, in abundance.

This resonated strongly with me: it's my mantra. But also we are battered daily by the Power of One as it is being manifest by the 'Orange Dicktator'. So clearly a) one is powerful, but b) that is no guarantee of change in the right direction. Which leads us to a consideration of how we choose to use the power we have.

First, let's sweep off the table the idea that only some people have power. Everyone has power. I think I've mentioned before that in my early days of community organizing, mostly with Indigenous groups, our tag-line was 'Power is: use it or be used by it.' Accompanied by the sketch of a large thumb coming out of the sky toward a cowering little guy whose lower body is a corkscrew. Clearly that little man thought he was in danger of being screwed by a distant power. But on the other hand, screws denote solidity. They hold things in place more securely than nails. They are put into place by intentional persevering pressure, rather than harsh pounding. They are guided in the early stages to ensure that they take their place straight and true. When they nestle fully into their place, their heads are level with their environment, they don't stand out, they are barely noticeable.

FAY MARTIN
Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

So that's one way the power of one is made evident, by doing the little essential jobs that together allow a more complicated structure to become and remain functional.

Another perspective on power of one is the Tall Poppy Syndrome, whereby individuals who rise above their companions have their heads cut off. Dr. Rumeet Billan of McMaster University, in a study of 1500 Canadian women in professional positions conducted in 2018, found that 87.3 per cent had been Tall Poppied. That is, their accomplishments were undermined and penalized – in various ways, ranging from ostracizing them, taking credit for their work, making them feel embarrassed or ashamed of their work, discouraging or disallowing celebration of their success, or actively knocking their heads off (refusing promotion, bullying, demotion, even dismissal). In 2023 Dr. Billan did a larger study of 4716 people, mostly women, in 103 countries: the findings were similar – 86.6 per cent of the women were Tall Poppied.

I worry that Tall Poppyism is running amok in our country, that we Canadians who have a reputation for being nice are anything but nice to people in positions of leadership (not just women, although probably particularly women). Like, for example, elected officials – people we collectively put into positions of relative power. We nice Haliburtonians also practice Tall Poppyism. Think not? Catch a council meeting or two and see the expertise of staff be unreasonably questioned or outright maligned. Think about the tone of letters to the editor, or conversation with friends and neighbours over coffee or a beer, that denigrate and/or disrespect and/or misrepresent the accomplishments of our leaders. We 'off with their heads!' almost as summarily and enthusiastically and indiscriminately as the 'Orange Dicktator'.

Tall Poppyism is not to be confused with critique. Analysis is the basis of critique – you have to figure out what you think, what your values are, what you stand before, before you can reasonably (that's the crucial word) take a position. Analysis is hard work, a learned skill, that some don't bother with; they just jump on whatever comes to mind (or more accurately gut – most people think with their feelings) and blurt it out. The less sure they are about their position, the louder and more nastily they say it. And some, if they're called out on either their position or how they present it, take refuge in victimology, whining that they aren't heard, aren't understood, are being unfairly picked on. They think they're the lopped-off head. (The 'Orange Dicktator' is pretty good at that: bad bad Zelensky provoking him to a public temper tantrum by coming to the Oval Office improperly dressed!)

Bullan suggests that the tall poppy slayers are motivated by jealousy, insecurity, other-ism (in the studies, sexism, but in Haliburton County probably more related to seeing people as different on whatever basis – economic status, education, sophistication). This is bad because it drives the good guys away and leaves those who remain to race toward mediocrity. The solution is to raise awareness, have zero tolerance, and offer the slayers, should they wish to amend their behaviour, training in self-awareness and emotional intelligence.

And that sounds like as good a road as any to ensuring that the Power of One is well used.

Minden Memories

An Easter postcard depicting a girl with angel wings emerging from an egg, sent to Master Baby Oster in Toronto. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Highway 407 and other text based frauds

The local Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has been receiving reports of fraud regarding Highway 407.

People have been receiving text messages or emails stating that they owe money to the 407. The message claims that if they do not pay, they will be fined, or their licence will be suspended. Some of these messages are sent to people who have never used the toll highway.

Here are some tips of how to prevent this from happening to you:

The 407 does send text messages from a six-digit short code and will include a secure payment web page. The text messages never include a direct link to pay.

If you receive an automated phone call instructions will be given to log into MyAccount to pay the bill.

Emails are only sent from info@407etr.com, communications@407etr.com, or notifications@407etr.com.

The 407 never ask for passwords, PINs or credit cards.

Communication will never contain a link to any web domain other then 407 etr.com.

Never click a link you suspect is a scam.

Log into MyAccount to confirm if you have a balance or make payments.

Although these frauds have been related to Highway 407, similar scams can happen with other businesses or claims about unpaid parking tickets or speeding fines.

Be cautions when receiving communication from an alleged business. If something does not seem right, call or visit the business directly to confirm it is not a fraud.

Submitted

HCPL's Book of the Week

Having lost both her mom and grandmother in just over six months, forced to navigate the fine lines between matriarchy, martyrdom, and codependency, Helen Knott realizes she must let go, not just of the women who raised her, but of the woman she thought she was.

Woven into the pages are themes of mourning, sobriety through loss, and generational dreaming. *Becoming a Matriarch* is charted with poetic insights, sass, humour, and heart, taking the reader over the rivers and mountains of Dane Zaa territory in Northeastern British Columbia, along the cobbled streets of Antigua, Guatemala, and straight to the heart of what matriarchy truly means. This is a journey through pain, on the way to becoming.

Becoming a Matriarch by Helen Knott is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Public health effort benefits by partnership

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

The association that represents Ontario's public health agencies is small but mighty.

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) was formed in 1986 and is the not-for-profit organization that provides leadership to Ontario's health boards and local public health units. It has been dubbed the voice of the province's local public health system.

Loretta Ryan, the association's CEO, said the group and its stakeholders and affiliates meet continuously throughout the year.

"We have never quite added them all up, but I assure you it's at least 100 (meetings)," she said when the Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough Health Unit's board met March 20.

Not bad for a group considered to be a volunteer organization.

They represent the areas of public health that work with government, its agencies, and those responsible for making decisions. The association also develops positions on key public health issues, relevant legislation, and disseminates those opinions.

"We're at many, many tables," Ryan said.

Information is communicated in neat and compact packages such as the monthly newsletter, she said.

"In there are all the key things that we are working on," she said. "We try to make this as easy as possible for members to find information."

There's also an education component to alPHa's mandate that's realized through regular conferences, training workshops, and information compiled.

"We're trying to make sure you have the tools that you need to do what you do as key volunteers," she said.

Strategic partnerships with other organizations is paramount to achieving alPHa's aims.

"We all know a silo approach does not work and that we need to work together," Ryan said.

The association works with the Ministry of Health, the Chief Medical Officer of Health's office, Public Health Ontario, Ontario Health, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Medical Association, the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and other stakeholders.

Ryan said those relationships help alPHa to deliver on its key strategic plan and to have a degree of influence on the positions the group promotes.

"We have a lot of resources," she said.

The world gets busier and more complicated every day. People don't have the time they once did to get face-and-eyes into long policy documents.

"People's ability and willingness to read long documents is not always there," she said. "So we have key infographics with regards to public health matters."

The alPHa convenes leadership of local public health agencies to be a unified trusted voice and a trusted advisor.

It advances the work of local agencies through strategic partnerships and collaborations. It works to support the sustainability of Ontario's local public health system and delivers services to public health leaders.

All that fosters a stronger local public health system, according to the alPHa mission statement.

The Ontario public health standards will soon change, and that has a huge impact on the operations of public health units throughout the province. Ryan was asked about alPHa's involvement with the work to change those regulations and standards.

"We are a member-facing organization and by being a member-faced organization we have had access to the premier's office to meet with (Health Minister Sylvia Jones), to meet with the heads of organizations," Ryan said. "That is because we are a member-facing organization.

"If we were a public-facing organization, the type of government relations work we do would be quite a bit more difficult. Our work is at the boardroom table."

"We are very involved as affiliates, as board of health members, and as medical officers of health," said Trudy Sachowski, alPHa chairperson.

Dr. Charles Gardner, the alPHa past-chairperson, said his connection is strongest regarding the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health and his close contact with Dr. Kieran Moore, the province's chief medical officer.

"This has been a topic that we as the executive of the alPHa board bring up monthly among ourselves, seek opportunities to advance the completion and release of the standards," he said.

Regional medical officers have participated over months in the development of the changes to the standards, he said.

Drafts of the new standards have been widely circulated among regional medical officers for feedback. They looked forward to the new standards being released last fall. That was delayed until January and most recently was put off until August before coming into effect in January 2026.

"We continue to have sharply a line of sight on that and continue to encourage their release," Gardner said. "One the ground in local public health there has been active involvement all the way along."

Cecil Ryall, the representative for Haliburton County, said everything that's ongoing in the world today makes a strong argument for standardized qualifications across the county. That's instead of individualized standards for individual provinces. That excludes practitioners in one province from others.

Given that the next federal election is now set in stone, Ryall asked if that idea of health standardization is shared by other units across Canada.

All provinces sharing in a national program would be easier for all Canadians to be on the same public health page, he said.

"That's where having the affiliates on our board of directors will be absolutely key," Ryan said. "Along with the medical officers of health, they are working within those areas which potentially would be impacted by changes to interprovincial barriers. That is something we will be keeping an eye out for."

Community events sponsored by
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Broker
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Follow me on Facebook!
Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Lenten Lunches
When: Wednesdays at noon
Where: March 26 – St. Paul's Anglican Church
April 2 – Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church
April 9 – Minden Bible Church
Service at noon followed by Soup Lunch. By Donation.

How to Create a Micromeadow
When: Apr. 1, 1:00pm
Where: Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside St.
Are you thinking about a garden? Please join the Minden & District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside St., Minden. Guest speaker Baz Conlin will be discussing 'How to Create a Micromeadow ', followed by the monthly society meeting. New members welcome!

Youth Unlimited Gym Night
When: Apr 4 - Sports and 9 Square 6:30 to 9p.m.
Where: Haliburton Highlands Secondary School
For Grades 6-12. For more info contact haliburton@youthunlimitedkaw.com.

The Loop Troupe Little Theatre presents Riches and Ransom Dinner Theatre
When: Saturday, April 5. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6 p.m.
Where: Lloyd Watson Centre, Wilberforce
Who Kidnapped Miss Purscilla Bing?Immerse yourself in the drama, deception and dilemmas while you dine with the residents of Old Oaks Retirement Home as they celebrate the home's 50th anniversary. Tickets $35 per person. Includes a Roast Beef Dinner served by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary Branch #624. Tickets only available in advance until March 29 at Agnews General Store in Wilberforce. For more info contact marybarker@bell.net 705-448-2290 or 613-334-1953.

Recurring events

Free Balanced Fitness and Active Social Senior Classes
When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome!

Seniors Chair Exercises
When: Thursdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Please join us for safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Above, Roger Parsons navigates a slalom course through whitewater. He was dedicated to all forms of adventurous sport; including climbing and paddling. /photos submitted

Parsons lived a full life of adventures and experiences, and peacefully passed away at the age of 94 at the end of December.

Roger Parsons and the legacy of water

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

The man, the myth, the paddler.

Not everyone would recognize the name 'Roger Parsons'.

But thousands of people have been impacted by his legacy of the Minden Whitewater Preserve.

"I believe it's truly one of the things that makes this area unique, certainly in Ontario, and maybe even in North America," said paddler Thom Lambert.

Parsons was instrumental in putting the property on the map. He knew every nook and cranny of the course, and inspired people of all ages to explore the river with a particular zest for adventure. After a full and vivacious life, Parsons passed away in December, 2024.

I never knew Roger, but I knew of the Whitewater Preserve. Everyone does.

It's a destination for paddlers, for hikers, for artists. It's a place where kids camp and wild animals explore in abundance. "There's a real magic to that site," said Lambert. "There are real, physical benefits to being near moving water. But you don't need to know that to understand that it just makes you feel better."

Sometimes when I would go, there would be someone meditating, someone jamming out on an acoustic guitar. Every so often, it would be completely quiet, and whatever problems I brought with me, seemed to flow away with the river.

So when Roger Parsons passed, I knew I needed to dive in.

But much like the ebbs and flows of the river itself, the story brought on some surprises. What started as one interview quickly flowed into another, and another, and another. The many people whose lives were shifted and changed by the simple presence of Parsons grew and grew.

A legend, a pioneer, a visionary, a friend.

I heard those terms, over and over again as more people were looped into the conversation.

In 1977, Parsons happened upon five pieces of land in Minden that were up for sale. As someone who had explored the world with a paddle in his hand, he saw the potential. "He single-handedly built a movement," said Claudia Kerckhoff-Van Wijk, a world-renowned paddler and the owner of OWL Rafting on the Ottawa River. "He was a real organizer."

Van Wijk grew up with Parsons and his family, her own parents paddling alongside Parsons, and continuing to instill the love of the water into her, and now her own children. A legacy.

She noted that his love for "all things adventure" was truly immeasurable, and his early days of exploration started as a climber. He ventured all over the world; the Alps, Africa, Europe, and the western Canadian provinces. He did the first documented ice climb of the Eagles Nest in Bancroft. It was through people he met via the Alpine Club - an organization dedicated to climbers - that he dove into water sports as well.

And if there's one thing I've learned, it's that when Parsons dove into anything, he did it with everything he had.

Van Wijk shared that Parsons had been a long-time scout leader in the 1950s, and went on to found the Ontario Voyagers Kayak Club, as well as the Mohawk Rod and Gun Club. Through these organizations, he taught hundreds of scouts how to navigate the world of whitewater.

While he was a world-class paddler himself - having participated in world championships on more than one occasion - his real passion lay in the development and teaching of the sport to future generations.

Gary George crossed paths with Parsons in the early 1990s. At the time, Toronto had a bid to host the Olympics, and St. Catharines was on the roster to host the whitewater stream. Of course, Parsons was involved in the conversations, at this point being intrinsically interwoven into the national whitewater community. "He seemed to prefer to sit with me, we talked on the side often," said George, who was on the planning committee for the potential Olympic development. "I think of that as the beginning of our friendship."

When George moved to Minden in 2002, his relationship to the Whitewater Preserve formally took shape. As a die-hard paddler himself, George dove into the magic of Minden, weaving his way up as a casual volunteer, to head instructor, to property manager, and every step in between.

"The Preserve changed my life," he said. "It does that. It has affected so many people in positive ways. It spins off better people for having been a part of it."

And George credits the value of the Preserve to Parsons. "What made Roger different was his unrelenting tenacity for all things whitewater," he said. "He knew every icon of the sport during his active years as a paddler."

The Minden Whitewater Preserve was not always the way it looks today. Upon his initial purchase of the plots of land surrounding the river, Parsons set about fundraising to modify and adjust the rapids in order to accommodate appropriate whitewater challenges.

The alterations made the site world-renowned, hosting annual slalom races, provincial and national competitions, World Cups, and in 2015, the Toronto Pan American Games.

"Roger got to watch the world come to his vision in 2015," said Van Wijk in reference to the Pan Am games at the Whitewater Preserve, officially putting Minden on the map.

> "What made Roger different was his unrelenting tenacity for all things whitewater ..."
>
> **— GARY GEORGE**

"There is not one venue like it on earth I'm aware of," echoed George. "Paddlers compete there every year, they all have the same comment: 'I've never seen anything quite like it'. Roger quite literally gave the area a globally unique gift that has the power to build community like few things I have ever experienced."

The centre at the Minden Whitewater Preserve was officially renamed the Roger Parsons Centre in 2008, and in 2013, a book by the name of *Building a River … Following A Dream: The Roger Parsons Story* was published to celebrate the elaborately adventurous life of Parsons, and the legacy he created.

Parson's celebration of life is scheduled for April 5, 2025. It will be held at the Steckley-Gooderham Funeral Home in Barrie, with the visitation starting at 11 a.m. Donations to the Salvation Army will be accepted in lieu of flowers.

Through it all, it comes down to paddling. "The legacy of Roger lies in the continuity of local paddlers," mused Van Wijk. "We need more paddlers, and once they try it, they would fall in love with it. It's just so magical there."

While the river ebbs and flows with twists and turns, there's much more than what's simply on the surface. More depth, more stories, more songs, more adventures.

Exactly what Roger would have wanted.

A true legacy.

New skills, new friends

Two Minden Youth teams went to Haliburton Curling Club to compete in a fun day of curling to end the season. After four months of skills training and learning to play the game the curlers had a fun day. Thank you to Dave Ablett and all of the Haliburton Curler volunteers that hosted us and made the day memorable. /submitted

We're Still Talking showcases the journey of friends

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

We're Still Talking is a group exhibition by Nadine Papp, Wendy Wood, and Sandi Luck; three local fibre artists, who spent ten days on a remote island to pursue their individualistic and collective creative visions.

If there was one word to describe their relationship, Wood says it would be "friends."

A journey by car and boat, the artists utilized the trip on the island to experiment with natural plant dyes. Without contact with the outside world, the three artists learned to work together and live harmoniously.

The journey took six months to plan, after the three artists began talking about a residency.

"I think the real journey for all of us started years ago when we realized that we were fibre artists," said Wood.

"The residency for me was less of a 'journey' and more of an escape from daily commitments to allow me time to focus on only one thing, natural dyeing," said Luck. "Not so much learning new dye techniques, but an expansion of current knowledge to encompass experimenting with local dye sources."

Over the course of the 10-day retreat, the artists say that they learned many things, not only about creative techniques, but about themselves.

"I learned a lot about dyeing using plants that are at our feet. I had done some natural dyeing before but by being able to immerse oneself into it for an entire week with no interruptions was amazing," said Wood. "Just creativity. The three of us shared what we knew and worked together to produce a rather large body of work of which we would be able to draw from."

"It was then that I realized that I needed a change from the artwork that I had been doing and that I wanted to explore another aspect of my weaving. It made me look at how I wanted to continue creating art."

"There's not enough time in a single day even when you have all day to work on one thing," said Luck. "I had worked and travelled with both Nadine and Wendy before, we have known each other for many years so we were all aware of each other's foibles. It was easy enough to give each other space whenever we needed it."

In addition to learning about their work process, Luck says "we brought too much food."

Wendy Wood began her career as an electrical draftperson. At a young age, she learned to crochet which developed her love of creating art with fibres.

Wood says that deep down her younger self provides the "willingness to try new things, to experiment with what I have already learned. Or to go back and work with a ball of yarn that I have dyed and make it into something new. It's relaxing."

Luck, a local fibre artist that experiments with felt jewelry, natural dyes, and botanical prints, evokes whimsy through bright colours, multiple layers of stitching, and beadwork.

"My work seldom has political or culturally significant messages, I tend to create bright coloured fun pieces and organic shapes that have no purpose other than to make one smile," said Luck. "They have no hidden meaning. I veered off my usual track a bit for this show and the viewer can find an underlying thread of motherhood and life."

Papp has a love of nature that inspires her craft through the fabric she stitches, dyes, cuts, and forms. Her repetitive stitches are her signature technique and recognizable in the works.

What exactly does the title *We're Still Talking* mean to the artists?

"Many things," said Wood. "It started as an answer to a question about our relationship with one another after being on the island for over a week with no other contact. But I also think it means what it is to be friends and fellow artists. We are supportive of each other."

"It was a bit of a flippant answer to a question about the relationship between the three of us after the residency, and of course we continue to do more than talk," said Luck. "For this exhibit it transformed into more than our personal connection and into conversations about the environment, Mother Nature and into the role of women, especially important discussions to be having with the current state of the world."

Wood says that she is most proud of the entire *We're Still Talking* exhibition as a whole.

"All of it. The work that we have done, pushing our boundaries artistically but also for the viewer to realize that it all started over a cup of tea and just a chat," said Wood. "Anything is possible when you have friends at your side who are willing to work together and have fun."

Luck says that the piece *Precarious Existence* is her favourite piece in the show. With it being the largest felted vessel she has worked on, it was highly technically challenging to produce a felt that would be heavy enough to hold its shape and the wooden root contained within.

"And there are many, many hours of embellishment and stitching as well," said Luck.

The *We're Still Talking* exhibition will be on display at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery from March 20 to May 10. Located at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, the Agnes Jamieson Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is by donation.

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Land acknowledgement needs meaning

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

The Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough public health unit's board is working to make Indigenous land acknowledgement more meaningful.

A land acknowledgement in Ontario is a statement read at the start of municipal and county meetings and the gatherings of other groups. It shows recognition for the traditional territories of Indigenous people who were stewards of the land before European colonization.

That acknowledgement is a commitment to reconciliation by citing the historical and, in many cases, on-going injustices faced by Indigenous communities in Ontario.

Oftentimes, the acknowledgements that are applicable to specific regions in Ontario are read as a formality and suffer the effects familiarity exacts on such rote practices.

Ron Black, chairperson of the public health unit's board, said during the group's March 20 meeting that he's asked the Indigenous Health Advisory Circle to provide words to be used in all meetings that has more meaning.

"I find a lot of land acknowledgements are just a repetitive process and I think we need to put more thought into it when we have our meetings," he said.

Black said spring is a season of growth, renewal, and healing. It is a perfect time to reflect on the deep connection between Indigenous land stewardship and reconciliation efforts.

"For many Indigenous communities, caring for the land is not just about environmental sustainability," he said. "It's a cultural and spiritual responsibility."

Colonization disrupted many traditional land management practices, often replaced them with destructive resource extraction and land degradation.

"Because of reconciliation, Indigenous land initiatives are reviving traditional ecological knowledge."

Black said modern environmental science is now recognizing the value of traditional environmental knowledge. Many governments and conservation groups have partnered with Indigenous leaders to restore landscapes and to return lost environmental integrity.

Nature regenerates in the spring, and so can relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities," he said.

"Collaborative environmental projects such as habitat restoration, reforestation, and water protection efforts serve as tangible acts of reconciliation for us moving forward," Black said.

Awareness around residential schools comes to Minden

Bakaan nake'ii ngii-izhigakinoo'amaagoomin: We Were Taught Differently, an exhibit created by The Muse, Lake of the Woods Museum, in conjunction with the NeChee Friendship Centre and the Lake of the Woods Ojibway Cultural Centre in Kenora, Ontario, will be on display at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre from April 1 to June 28, 2025.

This exhibit examines the Indian residential school experience, most particularly in the two schools that were located in Kenora, Ontario – Cecilia Jeffrey and St. Mary's. It also includes mention of all six schools in Treaty No. 3, as many local residents were sent to schools outside the immediate Kenora area. The exhibit is reflective of the residential school experience across Canada, nation-wide.

Powerful images, text, video, archival material and personal recollections combine to tell the story of the residential school experience. Visitors will learn why residential schools were established, what life in the schools was like, the legacy of the schools, the recent settlement agreement, and Government and church apologies.

The primary objectives of this exhibit are to acknowledge this part of our history; to promote awareness about the residential schools and the long-term effect they had on the First Nations people; and to honour those whose lives have been touched by the schools. It is an exhibit for everyone.

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre includes the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, Minden Hills Museum and Village and Nature's Place Interpretive Centre. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden, Ontario and is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Museum, Village and Nature's Place are open seasonally. All are welcome. Admission by donation.

For questions regarding this exhibit, please call the Community Services Department at 705-286-1260 x 542. For more information, visit the Township of Minden Hills website at www.mindenhills.ca

Submitted

Green burials reality in AH

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

In a sad twist, one of the advocates for green burials in Algonquin Highlands will be the first person to be interred by that means.

Shirley Moore and her husband Terry have lobbied for a green burial section at St. Stephen's Cemetery since 2019. They were the driving force behind the Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society following the death of their son, Kyle.

Mayor Liz Danielsen offered condolences to the Moore family and the loss of the matriarch, Shirley. Township council met March 17 to adopt the new cemetery bylaw during a special meeting.

The meeting was the final stage for the creation of the cemetery's environmentally friendly green burial section.

"Sadly, the fates have determined that Shirley will be the first person interred at the site," Danielsen said. "I do take some solace in the fact that she will be buried close to her son."

Sarah Hutson, the township's deputy clerk, said the last change to the rules was to enable plot provision on an "at-need" basis.

"That would mean we sell the plot at the time an internment needs to happen," she said. "This is different from the other sections in other cemeteries in Algonquin Highlands. But I do think this is the best course to have the vision of a naturalizing section as we go."

So the at-need stipulation means a gravesite couldn't be bought in the green section in advance, said Councillor Lisa Barry.

"Quite often, even now, there are some people that choose to be interred in our cemeteries that don't have a plot," Hutson said. "Quite often when I'm contacted by the funeral home, they may not have a plot. So they select it, I sell the plot, I arrange the burial. That process is pretty common."

Graves can be pre-purchased in other cemeteries, she said, but the change is the best course for the intent and vision of green burials.

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Minden on Ice

The Minden Skating Club celebrated 75 years of magic with their annual year-end show. This year, the theme was Disney on Ice, and saw skaters of all ages decked out in costumes to perform a variety of routines. Olympic athlete Kurt Browning attended the show to cheer the local athletes on. /TIM YANO, staff photographer

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Minden on Ice

Famous fish and chips added to international cookbook

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Once again, the well-known Dominion Hotel is putting Minden on the map. This time, on an international stage.

Their highly sought after fish and chips, battered in the hotel's own Dominion Hotel 1865 Lager, has recently been added to the cookbook *Inspired Stays, Local Flavors.*

The book is prepared by the online booking agent, eviivo. As the leading hospitality software company that caters to independent hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, resorts, inns, and vacation rentals, the organization works with over 28,000 accomodators around the world, and manages 660,000 bookings per month. The internationally valued service knows the ins and outs of accommodations, and set out to create a cookbook that features the best of the best from their partners.

"We had been working on our submission for a little while," said Shawn Chamberlin, the owner of the Dominion. "And after I submitted the recipe, I thought that maybe it was too simple. But it turns out that they liked what they saw. They actually loved the simplicity of it."

Chamberlin believes that the magic of the Dominion lies in its simplicity. "That's what we're all about," he said. "Making good, quality food, with as few ingredients as possible."

Having opened in 1865, the Dominion Hotel is the oldest operating business in Haliburton County, and one of the oldest continually operating hotels in Canada. "It opened as a place where visitors could tie up their horses, have a good meal, and a warm and dry bed for the night," said Chamberlin. While he noted that the nature of the hospitality industry has changed over the years, the roots of the establishment still run deep, and he takes great pride in that.

While many locals are drawn to the Dominion solely for the restaurant offering, it's actually on the map in terms of offering comfortable rooms as well. That's what makes the destination 'the full package' , says Chamberlin.

"It's really important for us to give that whole experience," he said. "These days, that's what folks are looking for. It's not just the meal and not just the hotel, it's the experience all together."

In terms of the recipe which will be featured in the international book, Chamberlin says that the Dominion Hotel 1865 Lager, which is a brew exclusively made for the site, plays a key role in the uniqueness of the dish. "We're all about comfort and simple foods," he said, "and the beer is a very important part of this recipe."

Inspired Stays, Local Flavors was distributed on March 24, which is recognized as Independent Accommodation Day around the world. To check out the cookbook or to try the world-famous fish and chips, visit Dominion Hotel at 113 Bobcaygeon Road, in the heart of downtown Minden.

Sharon Hughes, who has worked nearly every Fish Friday over the past two decades, holds the Dominion's now-famous beer battered fish and chips. /photo submitted

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Answers on page 10

Thrills and ski-lls

The drizzly weather of the past weekend didn't slow anyone down from attending the annual Sir Sam's Spring Splash on Saturday, March 22. Groups of people wore wacky costumes and outfits to celebrate the fun day on the slopes. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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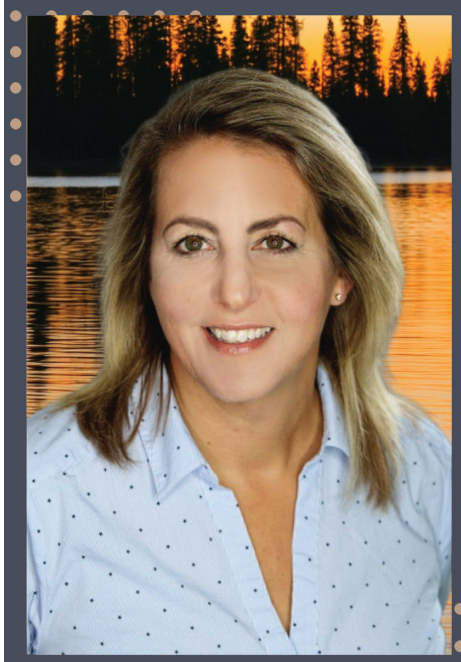

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Gordon Wayne Barter "Gordie"

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Gord at his home in Minden.

Gord was a proud Newfie who was always joking and he was everyone's favourite face at the golf course. He adored his grandkids — Danica, Lincoln, Rome, and Naia — more than anything else in this world.

Gord leaves behind his beloved wife Karen, son Todd (Lindsay), daughter Danielle (Gavin), his cherished grandchildren, and his sister Karen. Predeceased by his parents Arthur and Ethel Mae. His family was everything to him, and he will be deeply missed by all who were lucky enough to know him.

A true character with a heart of gold, Gord's memory will live on in the laughter and love he brought into every room. Rest easy, Gord — your jokes, your smile, and your love will never be forgotten.

The family wishes to thank all who have reached out with love and support during this time.

Gord's Golf Day will be held this summer to celebrate his life on a date and time that will be announced.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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Inside

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Tom Prentice captured the overall championship on the ice car racing circuit this winter.
Page 2

Tied up
After taking a two-game lead, the Minden Bantam B's have allowed Keswick to even the series at two apiece.
Page 21

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County Cuts $100,000

Tax increase stands at 14.9 per cent

Haliburton County Council made two late cuts last week to bring its tax increase down below 15 per cent.

The Chamber of Commerce will not be getting the increase it had hoped for and the County Roads Department will not be building equipment reserves this year.

County Council gave final approval to its 1994 budget on Wednesday. The new budget represents a 14.9 per cent hike in the county levy.

The budget is the end result of a month of deliberations, which brought about some severe cuts. At the outset of the process, it looked as though a 30 per cent increase was in store for the county, but councillors shaved considerably to bring this down.

Two weeks ago, the county held a meeting to invite public input. At that time, the increase had been trimmed to just under 19 per cent.

(more on page 3)

A STUNNING TURN-AROUND

Hodgson wins easily

NDP blanked, Field earns 6 per cent of vote

Buoyed by tremendous support from Haliburton County, the Conservatives pulled off the impossible.

In the span of one month, Conservative Chris Hodgson turned a 16 point lag in the polls into a 10 per cent margin of victory.

What's equally amazing is that the victory is not based on lavish promises from the candidate. Hodgson promised only to work as part Mike Harris' PC team to rebuild Ontario's economy through cuts to taxes and bureaucratic red tape.

Hodgson captured 51 per cent of the vote in the March 17 provincial by-election for Victoria-Haliburton, outpacing Liberal candidate Sharon McCrae, who earned 41 per cent.

And while Hodgson enjoyed a lead throughout the riding, the support from Haliburton County voters was particularly impressive. Conservative support here was more than double the Liberal support, providing a cushion of almost 1,700 votes.

Across the riding, Hodgson won by a 2,368 vote margin.

Province-wide polling done just prior to the campaign showed strong popular support for the Liberals. The poll showed the Liberals had the support of 53 per cent of decided voters to the Tory's 27 per cent and the New Democrats' 14 per cent.

The most crushing blow in this election is the lack of support for the New Democrats. This represents the fifth by-election loss since the party took power three years ago. And by far, it is the most insulting.

Victoria-Haliburton's new MPP was the focus of media attention following his impressive win Thursday.

NDP candidate Art Field picked up just 1,413 votes, which represents 6 per cent support.

"This should send a clear message to Premier Bob Rae that his policies are unpopular," Hodgson said after the counting was done Thursday. He thanked his supporters and campaign team for helping to send such a powerful message.

It's a message that Rae is bound to hear. Following the count, the PC campaign headquarters became the site for a media feeding frenzy. Local, regional and provincial media were all present in the crammed banquet hall above Lindsay's Olympia Restaurant. The spotlight was on Hodgson and McCrae and both took the opportunity to make hay with the NDP numbers.

McCrea refused to offer an analysis of what the loss means to the Liberals, but she said it should mean a great deal to the New Democrats. She said the dismal NDP support clearly shows that Ontario is not pleased with the approach this government has taken.

Haliburton support provides the cushion

The riding has been watched closely by all parties, which view this as a bellwether for next year's provincial election.

Hodgson said his victory demonstrates that people want change. He said the results are a strong indication that the Conservatives can win the general election.

The win inflates the Conservatives' strength at Queen's Park to 22 members. The NDP holds 69 seats while the Liberals have 35 and independents 4.

McCrea, who was the only candidate in this six-person field to visit the PC headquarters, congratulated Hodgson for the win. She said he ran a very strong campaign and she urged him to promote this riding's tourism potential.

"I hope he takes the opportunity to put Victoria-Haliburton on the map." Much of this riding relies on tourism for its wealth, she said.

The other three candidates in this election were not a factor in the results. Libertarian candidate Ron Hawkrigg received 249 votes, while independent candidate Brad Bradamore picked up 219 and Abolitionist candidate John Tremel received 123 votes. Their combined support represents less than 3 per cent of the vote.

County Council considers cutting Deputy Reeves

In an effort to save money and streamline the decision-making process, Haliburton County Council will consider cutting its membership back to 10.

A notice of motion was made last Wednesday, providing councillors with time to collect their thoughts on the matter before the issue comes up for discussion at the next meeting.

County Council is currently made up of 16 members, representing 10 muicipalities. All municipal Reeves are represented, as are the Deputy Reeves of Dysart, Minden, Stanhope, Glamorgan, Lutterworth and Sherbourne Townships.

The motion calls for Deputy Reeves to be cut from council. It also provides for weighted votes for the larger townships.

The motion also calls for full participation from councillors on all committees.

Clerk-Treasurer Terry Noble will be collecting information from other counties that have similar county structures. He will provide councillors with a report prior to the next meeting.

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JOB FAIR DAY 2025

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
8:30 AM TO 2:30 PM

Haliburton Highlands
Secondary School Gym

HHSS
RED HAWKS

Haliburton County
Home Builders Association
www.hchba.ca

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HHSS IS WORKING TO ADDRESS THE EMPLOYEE SHORTAGE IN THE COUNTY!

Job Fair Day will be an event where businesses of all different sizes and industries from across Haliburton County will be on display in the high school gym for students to meet and learn what is available *close to home.* This is a perfect place for students to bring their resumes and talk to employers about co-op jobs, volunteer positions, summer jobs or post secondary employment.

This is not a 'trade' only Job Fair. We would like to include as many businesses as possible from across Haliburton County. We will also have outdoor space available for any participants who would like to bring larger tools or equipment. The more interactive your space is, the more engaged the students will be.

Questions?
Reach out to **Aggie Tose by phone at 705-457-6901 or by email info@hchba.ca**

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